



Connecticut Association of Centers for Independent Living  
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 www.cacil.net

...Working for the full integration, independence, and civil rights of people with disabilities  
 through Centers for Independent Living

**Testimony of Gary Waterhouse, Executive Director  
 CT Association of Centers for Independent Living**

Center for Disability Rights  
 764A Campbell Ave.  
 West Haven, CT 06516  
 V 203-934-7077  
 TDD 203-934-7079

Appropriations Committee:  
 Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed Deficit Mitigation Plan  
 December 9, 2009

Disabilities Network of  
 Eastern CT  
 238 West Town Street  
 Norwich, CT 06360  
 V/TDD 860-823-1898

***Governor Rell's Deficit Mitigation Plan for Fiscal year 2010 eliminates all state  
 funding to Independent Living Centers. (\$365,000)***

**Program Description**

Independent Living Centers are community-based, non-residential nonprofit corporations operated by and for people with disabilities, providing direct services that promote independence and community integration for people of all ages with all types of disabilities. Services address individual needs in areas such as housing, financial assistance, employment, medical services and personal care. Five organizations operate Independent Living Centers in five locations across the state.

Disability Resource Center  
 of Fairfield County  
 80 Ferry Boulevard  
 Suite 210  
 Stratford, CT 06497  
 V 203-378-6977  
 TDD 203-378-3248

Independence Northwest  
 1183 New Haven Rd.  
 Naugatuck, CT 06770  
 V 203-729-3299  
 TDD 203-729-1281

Independence Unlimited  
 Suite D  
 151 New Park Avenue  
 Hartford, CT 06106  
 V/TDD 860-523-5021

**Effect of Proposed Budget Cuts**

The Department of Social Services relies on Independent Living Center to administer grants and provide services under state administered grants. Grants are more effective because Center's have infrastructure (*rent, utilities, insurance, telephones, internet access, administrative staff and management*) to efficiently implement grant goals and objectives. The following programs are jeopardized by elimination of state funding:

- *Money Follows the Person*
- *Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)*
- *Assistive/Rehabilitation Technology*
- *Ticket to Work Activities*
- *Pre-Apprentice Program*

All future grants effecting people with disabilities that are more cost efficient when managed by Independent Living Centers than government employees.

Loss of state funding will result in significant staff lay-offs at Independent Living Centers, most staff at Centers are people with disabilities.

Total elimination of state funding is unreasonable, a 5% or 10% cut across the board is reasonable and sustainable.